## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

## **COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO**



COMMUNICABLE DISEASE SECTION

799 E. Rialto Avenue, San Bernardino, CA. 92415-0011

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Immunization Program

## Toddler Immunization Month Urges Parents to "Immunize to Stay on Track!"

**San Bernardino**. The San Bernardino County Department of Public Health proudly launches Toddler Immunization Month in May, 2011. This annual observance highlights the importance of fully immunizing toddlers ages 1-3 years old against vaccine-preventable diseases.

Now is the perfect time to schedule an appointment with your toddler's medical provider to check that immunizations are on track with recommended immunizations. Toddlers need timely immunizations to protect themselves and their communities from vaccine-preventable diseases.

"Immunizations are among the easiest ways available to help prevent disease and death," said Dr. Ohikhuare, San Bernardino County Health Officer. "Families, health care professionals and public health officials must work together to help protect the entire community. A decision to immunize your toddler is a decision to protect them and the entire community as well."

Some of the immunizations that toddlers can receive are hepatitis B, polio and pertussis (whooping cough). Check with your toddler's medical provider or clinic to find out what immunizations are needed. Taking the time to keep your toddler on track with immunizations helps ensure a healthy family.

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to talk to their toddler's medical provider to ensure that they are on track and up-to-date on immunizations. If your toddler does not have health insurance or is under insured, ask your medical provider or local health department for information about the Vaccines for Children Program which provides vaccines at low-cost. For public health clinic locations, schedules and appointments, call 1-800-722-4777, Monday - Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or visit the San Bernardino County website at www.sbcounty.gov/dph.

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JOSIE GONZALES, CHAIR.....Fifth District